



## Holiday Worker

East Hancock Elementary 1st grader Jonathan Cameron works on his gingerbread house

Youth, Page 5



## Farewell, Blue Marlin

With the USS Cole safely unloaded, the heavy lift ship Blue Marlin prepares to return home.

Business, Page 11

# The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892

VOL. 109, NO. 104 BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

ONE SECTION, 18 PAGES

50 CENTS

**Sunday**  
Dec. 31, 2000

### Area closings

Hancock County government offices, the libraries and government offices in Bay St. Louis and Waveland will be closed Monday in observance of the New Year's holiday. Federal and state agencies and area banks will also be closed Monday, along with the Echo office.

Most Christian City Hall and other government employees went out at 12:30 a.m. Friday and will return to work at 8 a.m. Tuesday.

All agencies will reopen at 8 a.m. Tuesday. The Hancock County Board of Supervisors convenes at 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Courthouse in Bay St. Louis for its regular monthly meeting.

### Tree recycling

Christmas trees can be delivered to the Hancock County Civic Center and will be collected through Jan. 9 for recycling.

A designated area is roped off at the Civic Center, and trees can be placed within that area for collection by Mississippi Power Company Jan. 10.

For information, call the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce at 467-9048.

**WHAT'S INSIDE**  
Editorial .....Page 4  
Sports .....Pages 7  
Business .....Page 11  
Classified .....Pages 14-16

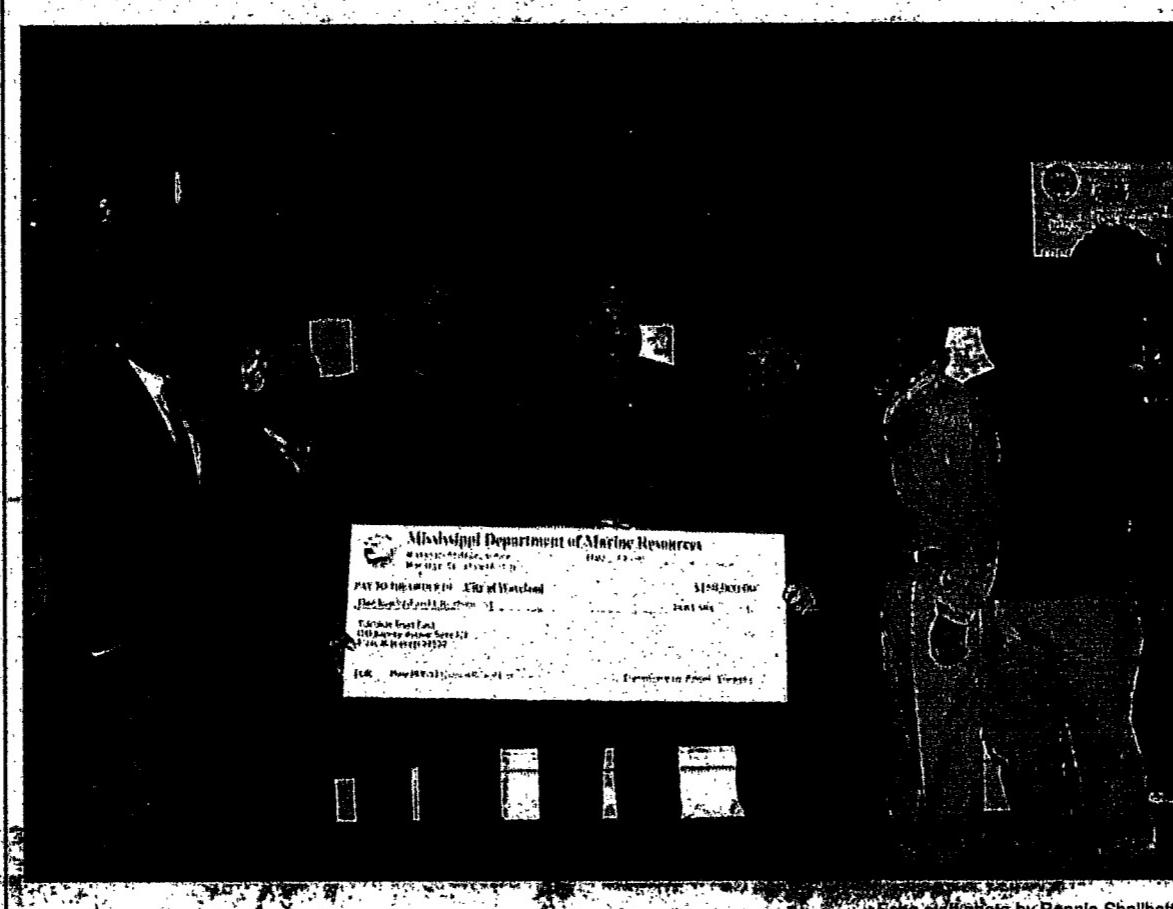
<b>TIDES</b>		
DAY	HIGH	LOW
Mon. 12 p.m.	1.00 ft.	0.60 ft.
Tues. 1:31 p.m.	1.00 ft.	0.60 ft.
Wed. 8:05 p.m.	1.12 a.m.	0.60 ft.
Thurs. 7:55 p.m.	6:59 a.m.	0.60 ft.
Fri. 8:14 p.m.	7:03 a.m.	0.60 ft.
Sat. 8:49 p.m.	7:39 a.m.	0.60 ft.
Sun. 9:33 p.m.	8:24 a.m.	0.60 ft.

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## TIDELANDS MONEY



The City of Waveland was presented with \$150,000 in Tidelands Funds on Friday to help finance an extension and related improvements to the Garfield-Ladner Pier. Chief of Staff for the Department of Marine Resources Joe Ziegler, left, Ward 3 Alderman Louie Smolensky, Commission of Marine resources Member for Mississippi Oliver Sahugue, Mayor Tommy Longo, State Representative J.P. Comprett, Ward 2 Alderman Ricky Geoffrey, Ward 4 Alderman Charles Plaza were present for the event. Ziegler commended Comprett and colleagues, Senator Scottie Cuevas, and Rep. Dirk Dedeaux for their hard work and dedication in securing the grant for Waveland. The funds come from State land leases to casinos and other industry, Ziegler said.

## Phoenix Leisure planning larger gambling complex

BY ED LEPOMA  
Staff Writer

Las Vegas-based Phoenix Leisure, Inc., is posturing itself financially in hopes of developing a full-scale casino resort at Bayou Caddy.

After months of silence, officials of the company answered one of the most frequent questions circulating around Hancock County. "When is the casino going to open?"

Peter LaFemina, the company's chief financial officer, explained this week, "Conditions in the financial markets for casino development and expansion have been extremely difficult, not only for the niche player, like

Phoenix Leisure, but also for larger, well-established operators. We've been trying to balance the potential debt risk with an enhanced project that will be well-received by the local market and yield strong returns."

On Dec. 11, Phoenix Leisure pledged a \$1.25 million deposit to Cleopatra Gaming Management in Washington state and is awaiting licensing, expected sometime in the first quarter of next year.

"The company is prohibited from purchasing mini-casinos, but is allowed to serve as an approved lender to one facility in the state, prior to obtaining a gaming license,"

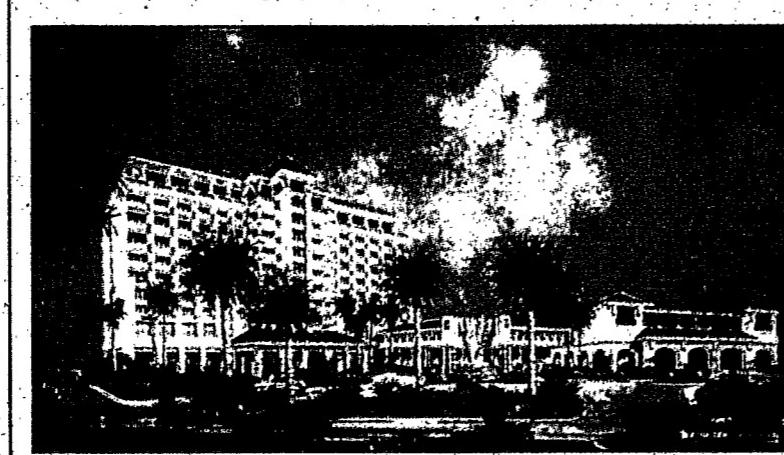
LaFemina explained. "Once we are licensed, we will be in a position to exercise our option with Cleopatra to generate operating cash flows and evaluate other mini-casino acquisitions in Washington."

"We've targeted local markets in Washington state, affording the potential for superior returns with relatively conservative outlays of capital," said LaFemina. "In the interim, our loan to Cleopatra will earn 15 percent compared to the six percent yields from our current short-term deposits."

Last June, Phoenix Leisure was issued an operator's license by the Mississippi Gaming Commission, and it has all the federal and state permits to begin site preparation and enhancement at Bayou Caddy.

LaFemina said, under Mississippi regulations, the company has three years to begin construction, but can get an extension, if necessary.

LaFemina said the company is now planning on a full-scale development at Bayou Caddy instead of its previously announced reduced plans to develop only a 72-room hotel. A 205-room hotel is now in the works, along with the casino. The company has already spent \$2.5 million to



### Bayou Caddy Complex

This is an architect's rendering of the hotel complex which Las Vegas-based Phoenix Leisure, Inc. hopes to build at its Bayou Caddy site. Officers of the company announced this week the hotel will be larger than a scaled-back version of the project planned previously, which had reduced the project to a 72-room hotel.

COMPLEX--PAGE 3

## Hancock Medical hosts blood drive Wednesday, Jan. 3

Hancock Medical Center will team up with the American Red Cross Wednesday, Jan. 3 to host a Holiday Heroes Community Blood Drive.

The drive will take place at the hospital on Drinkwater Blvd. from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. near the main entrance. As a thank you for giving blood, all donors will receive a Donate Blood, Get Cookies T-shirt and a holiday hero pin.

The drive is being sponsored the first week of January to assist in replenishing blood supplies following the holiday season.

Currently, supplies of most blood types are below normal levels. There is a critical need for O positive, O negative and A negative types since there is less than a one-day supply of each.

The American Red Cross strives to keep a three-day sup-

ply on hand in order to be able to meet hospital orders and have a back-up supply available for emergencies.

O negative blood is the universal blood type and is used frequently for trauma victims and for babies and young children. It can be transfused to any patient no matter what their blood type.

However, a patient with O negative blood can only receive O negative type blood. O positive blood is the most common blood type. It is also the type that hospitals require most often for their patients since about 38% of the population is type O positive.

Blood drives along the Gulf Coast region have only been collecting 75% of what was expected during the holiday season. The shortfall in collections cause the kind of short-

BLOOD DRIVE--PAGE 2

## Library arch installation to close service road

Installation of the new library entrance sign at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library will begin Tuesday, Jan. 2, according to Prima Plauche, library system director.

The installation will require that the Highway 90 service road between Ellen Kane Gifts and Bay Pharmacy be closed to through traffic for approxi-

## 'Boil Water' notice lifted for Jourdan River Shores

BY ED LEPOMA  
Staff Writer

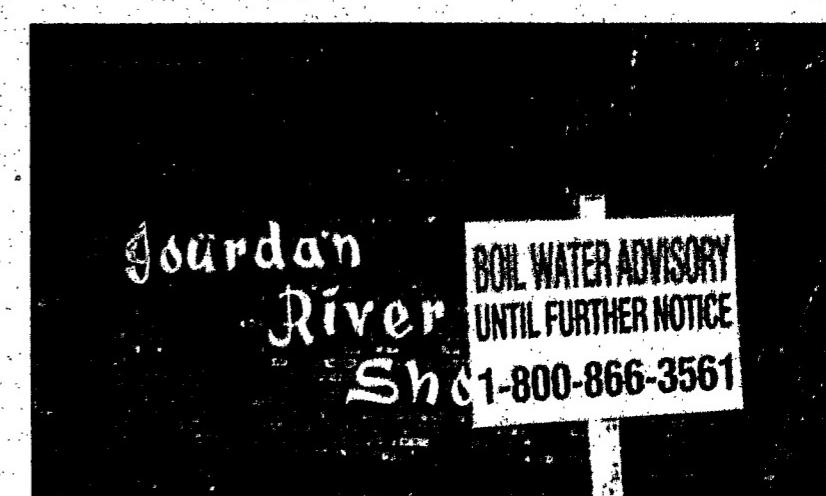
A "boil water" notice was posted for more than a week in the Jourdan River Shores subdivision off state Hwy. 603 in Kiln, but some residents didn't even know it.

The notice, which was first nailed to posts within the subdivision on Dec. 20, was lifted by noon Saturday, Dec. 29. It was posted just before Christmas when everyone was getting ready to prepare food

for the holidays. The signs read "Boil Water Advisory Until Further Notice, and listed a 1-800 number to call for more information.

The subdivision's water and sewerage service is now owned by Total Environmental Services, Inc., based in Ocean Springs. A federal judge recently allowed that firm to buy up utilities here and in six other states after Johnson Utilities

BOIL WATER--PAGE 3



Some residents of Jourdan River Shores were unaware that a "Boil Water Advisory" had been posted for the subdivision off Hwy. 603 in Kiln for more than a week.

## Obituaries

**PAUL BATES, JR.**  
BERNARD LACOSTE  
ELMER LADNER SR.  
JERALYN MITCHELL  
EUNICE POLIT  
JOHN REIDY JR.

**PAUL BATES, JR.**  
Paul Larry Bates, Jr., 20, of Ellisville, Miss. died Thursday, Dec. 28, 2000, in Ellisville.

Mr. Bates was a native of Bogalusa, La. and a resident of Ellisville and Bay St. Louis.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Raymond Bates.

Survivors include his father, Paul Larry Bates, Sr. of Bay St. Louis; his mother, Cherie Lafontaine of Bay St. Louis; his stepmother, Tina Bates of Bay St. Louis; two brothers, Brandon and Devin Bates, both of Bay St. Louis; a sister, Brandy Bates, a stepbrother, Troy Adams, and a stepsister, Brandi Adams, all of Bay St. Louis.

Visitation was Saturday at Edmond Fahey Funeral home in Bay St. Louis followed by a prayer service and interment in Bayou Caddy Cemetery in Ansley.

### BERNARD LACOSTE

Bernard L. LaCoste, 80, of Bay St. Louis, died Thursday, Dec. 28, 2000, in Gulfport.

Mr. LaCoste was a native and a resident of Bay St. Louis and a member of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis. He was a U.S. Army veteran serving in World War II. He was graduated from the University of Delaware and retired from Westinghouse as a design engineer. He was credited with 15 patents during his career.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Emile and Emily Edwards LaCoste; a brother, E. J. LaCoste; and a sister, Yvonne LaCoste Kottman. Survivors include her husband, Charles Leslie Mitchell of Pass Christian; a son, Hugh Goulding of Saucier; daughters Deidra Goulding of Pasadena, Calif. and Michelle Mitchell of Wheeling, Ill.; a sister, Beverly Becker of Slidell; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday at the Lutheran Church of The Pines.

Riemann Funeral home in Bay St. Louis was in charge of arrangements.

### EUNICE POLIT

Eunice Polit, 61, of Lakeshore, died Thursday, Dec. 28, 2000, in Bay St. Louis.

Mrs. Polit was sent from Riemann Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis to Jacob Schoen Funeral Home in New Orleans for services and burial.

### JOHN REIDY JR.

John Edward Reidy, Jr., 51, of Bay St. Louis, died Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2000, in Biloxi.

Arrangements are incomplete at Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Home in Gulfport.

## Hancock Middle PTO meeting

Hancock Middle School's quarterly PTO meeting is scheduled for Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. in the school library.

Debbie Lain and Myron Labat will be doing a presentation on the school's character education and peer mediation programs.

All sixth grade students will be singing Christmas carols in Spanish for parents on that night.



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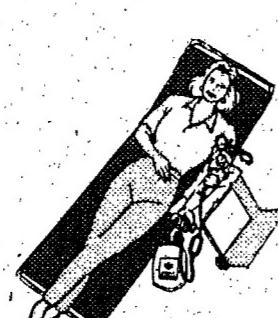
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## Plans underway to upgrade sewer treatment facilities

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER

Staff Writer

County officials continue to work with the Gulf of Mexico Program in coordinating a county wide effort for future waste water treatment. Southern Regional Wastewater Management District received a letter from the GMP and their project team, expressing their unanimous concurrence that a \$7 million plan for a Phase 1 upgrade that Southern Regional submitted for review, appears to be technically sound and justified. Southern Regional hopes to begin improvements to its Waveland plant as early as January.

The district is hoping to receive a partial, \$2 million grant from Rural Development to help finance the project. In addition to the grant, financing options include private bond funding, and loans from Rural Development or the State Revolving Fund. Southern Regional Consultant Gary Beard said the district hopes to reach a three million gal. storage capacity.

Beard also said that Southern Regional will be working with surrounding areas, especially Waveland, to allow for more efficient influent corridors into the plant. The more efficient and direct corridors coming into the plant will work to reduce backup at pumping stations in the city.

The upgrade will allow Southern Regional to service an expected increase in its customer base and better serve present customers. Beard presented figures which he said indicates that even if the district must borrow all the money for the project, there will be no increase in customer fees due to the addition of new customers to help "spread the costs."

Phase 1 will concentrate on improving the effectiveness and efficiency of treatment to the existing facilities, Beard said, and will add about half a million gallons to the treatment capacity. Phase 1 will accomplish four main goals, Beard said.

A new headwork's influent monitoring system will allow Southern Regional to measure and monitor flows from the two entities, Bay St. Louis and

### Blood drive

Waveland, so that a fair and equitable rate system can be implemented.

"Our rates are based on not only how much waste water flows through the system but on the strength of the waste and this monitoring system will tell us both things," said Beard.

The project will also include improvements to the ongoing odor abatement program by locating solid/de-watering facilities inside a building and will also include minor upgrades to treatment systems.

Upgrades will also be made to the post treatment equalization influent system so that treated water can be retained during storm conditions and then pumped out when the conditions improve. Beard said the district hopes to reach a three million gal. storage capacity.

Beard also said that Southern Regional will be working with surrounding areas, especially Waveland, to allow for more efficient influent corridors into the plant. The more efficient and direct corridors coming into the plant will work to reduce backup at pumping stations in the city.



### Little Queen

Montana Fernandez was crowned, "Miss Millennium Christmas Queen", recently in her first ever beauty contest.

Continued from Page 1

ages the Red Cross is currently experiencing.

"Blood drives like the one at Hancock Medical Center are critical at this time of year, because they can help get the blood supply back on track after the holidays and help prevent the supplies from becoming 'dangerously low,'" commented Liz Gaulke, donor recruitment representative with the American Red Cross.

Organizers have set a goal to collect 100 pints of blood Jan. 3 and are encouraging hospital staff and the community to give blood and help reach that goal.

"By collecting 100 pints of blood at the hospital, we can help as many as 300 patients as we start a brand new year," continued Gaulke.

Every pint of blood collected can be separated into three different components, including red cells, plasma and platelets. Each component can be given to a different patient.

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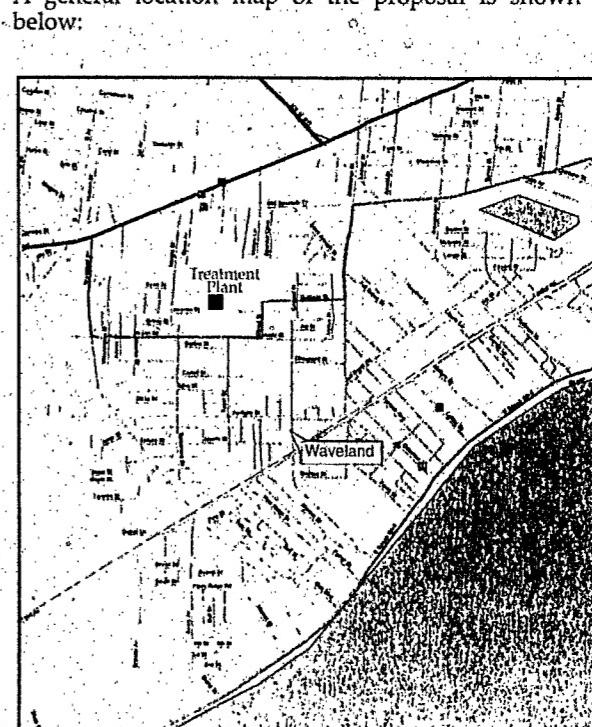
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## NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The USDA, Rural Utilities Service has received an application for financial assistance from Southern Regional Wastewater Management District. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the Rural Utilities Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment that evaluated the potential environmental effects and consequences of the proposed project. This notice announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment for public review and comment.

Due to the growth of the Waveland, Bay St. Louis and Hancock County areas, the Department of Environmental Quality has determined that more stringent discharge limits will be imposed on the District and alternative discharge locations will be required. The current discharge point is Edwards Bayou, which ultimately discharges into the Jourdan River. The existing discharge allows for a monthly average flow of 4.9 mgd with monthly average constituents of 10/30/2 mg/l (BOD5/TSS/NH3-N) and 200 Col. for Fecal Coliform. During the past year, there have been reported violations of the NPDES Permit. Therefore, the District is proposing to enlarge the treatment capacity and reduce discharge into the Edwards Bayou and the Jourdan River.

The proposed project is located within the 100-year flood plain however the existing treatment facility is already located in the area. There will be no environmental consequences with the proposed upgrade. The Corps of Engineers has advised that the project is subject to their Federal permitting authority. Based on the Corps of Engineers recommendation, a wetland consultant was contacted to perform the necessary survey. This survey has been furnished to the Corps of Engineers for their permitting requirements prior to the start of construction.



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Julie Barrer  
DeAnna R  
Chuck Snell  
New Owner

# Local officials' New Year's resolutions

BY BENNIE SHALLBETTER

Staff Writer

For many, the New Year promises a chance for new beginnings, a

chance to leave the old behind and move on to a new and improved future, to forget past hurts, past failures and start over all brand new.

Several locals offered to share their resolutions for 2001:



• State Representative for Hancock County J.P. Compretta: "As a legislator I want to continue to work to raise the quality of living for all our citizens and improve opportunities both vocationally and educationally for young people. I would also like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year."



• Steven's International Airport Director Bill Cotter: "I resolve to turn the years of hard work and dedication of many into reality; that the year will bring aviation industry and jobs to the airport."



• Waveland Ward 3 Alderman Louie Smolensky: "To wish everybody peace, happiness, good health and a good year, especially family and friends; that business is good and the community keeps growing."



• Hancock County District Supervisor Lisa Coward: "To become more tolerant, both at work and in my personal life; to get more physically fit; to get more involved in my children's school; to take everyday and enjoy it."



• Bay St. Louis Police Chief Frank McNeil: "Get the department to full capacity and implement all the programs we were not able to get to last year, to continue community policing efforts, and to keep our community a place where people feel safe to live; also to loose 25 pounds."



• Bay St. Louis Councilwoman Connie Payne Lampley: "My resolution this year is to be more patient with others; to volunteer more of my time to youth organizations and to quit smoking. I want to thank God for blessing me and my family with another great year."



• Director of Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission Hal Walters: "I resolve to work closely with the city, county, and state officials to continue a "smart growth" policy in Hancock County."



• Waveland Police Chief Jimmy Varnell: "To be more patient, I'm really impatient."



• Executive Director of the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce Carleen Moran: "Listen more and talk less."



• Director of Hancock County Library Prima Plauche: "To read more, eat less and keep life from getting in the way of living."



• Waveland Mayor Tommy Longo: "To practice patience and integrate my mother's way of seeing life, to see the good in all people, into all my daily work."



• Waveland Fire Captain Mike Smith: "To have more fun than I had last year and spend less time working and more time with family; to be the best person I can be both personally and professionally."

## Boil water

Continued from Page 1

filed bankruptcy after being fined millions of dollars for various violations of the federal Clean Water Act at utilities it owned in Louisiana.

Contacted Friday, a spokesman for TESI said the company actually took over officially on Saturday, Dec. 23, but an operator was on duty at the Jourdan River plant when the emergency arose.

She said a pump failed and the well lost pressure.

"It wasn't (the pressure) dangerously low, but at the request of the state Health Department, we posted the boil water notice," she said. Three consecutive water samples need to test clear before the notice could be lifted.

Some residents didn't like how the new owners handled the situation.

Elliot Richter, who runs the River Dock restaurant just over the bridge that spans the Jourdan River, said he saw the sign about a week ago, but nobody came to personally tell him what to do. "And, now the sign's fallen down, so I thought the problem was over," he said.

"It seems somebody would have to give me instructions so I can react," said Richter. He said he has his own method for chemically testing his water supply, and he had not been boiling his water because the tests showed the water was safe to drink.

Richter said he felt somebody should "be knocking on doors, with instructions on what should be done" in the event of such an emergency.

"Some of my regulars who come in here didn't even know about the notice," he said. "I guess they missed the posted

signs."

Denita Palumbo, who lives in one of the homes fronting off Hwy. 603 just past the restaurant, was one of those who didn't know about the emergency.

"My goodness! I haven't been boiling my water," she said. "I didn't know anything about it."

Another resident inside the subdivision said she noticed the signs and had been boiling water, but nobody came by to personally tell her anything.

There was also some confusion on TESI's part on who should do the testing.

The company spokesman said she thought the state Health Department would do the testing, but Romell Fleming, with the Department's Division of Water Service, said that's the responsibility of the utility firm.

Fleming said it is the utility firm's responsibility to flush all water lines, and take a series of tests, with the water samples taken to private labs in the area or sent overnight up to the Health Department's Jackson office to be tested.

Fleming called before noon Friday to report six consecutive water samples showed the water was now safe to drink and the notice had been lifted.

There are approximately 300 homes in the Jourdan River Shores, with more under construction. Some residents have asked the Hancock County Board of Supervisors to allow the Kiln Water and Fire Protection District to provide their subdivision with water, but TESI, the new owners, holds the certificate, which is issued by the state Public Service Commission.

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## Complex

Continued from Page 1

acquire a gambling riverboat from Canada and the vessel remains docked at Port Bienville.

"We believe the location at Bayou Caddy is the most compelling along the Interstate 10 corridor," said LaFemina. "The Gulf Coast has many examples of casinos that have failed because they were either "no frills" gambling boats or undercapitalized with heavy debt burdens."

"We're aware of the mistakes of the past and continue to look for the right balance of non-gaming amenities and economical financing. We want to be here for the long haul and the community deserves a competitive facility."

LaFemina said the investment in Washington will strengthen the company's financial position. "This will allow us to negotiate more acceptable financing terms that won't jeopardize the long-term viability of Bayou Caddy," he

## Happy New Year

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# OPINION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2000

pg 4



## Cuevas' Quotes

by Ellis C. Cuevas  
Publisher Emeritus

On Wednesday Hancock Medical Center will sponsor an American Red Cross blood drawing from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. near the main entrance of the hospital.

This special drawing titled, *Holiday Heroes Community Blood Drive* is not just for Hancock Medical Center employees, but also for the general public.

Following the long holiday season of Christmas and New Year's there is always a serious need to replenish blood supplies.

A goal of 100 units had been set for the blood drive, and it is hoped they will really receive more than 100 units.

The American Red Cross has been holding blood drives in Hancock County for over 50 years, and there have been times when a drive would top 200 units. In recent years this has not been the case, so everyone who is able is urged to respond to the Red Cross. Officials report that it only takes about one hour to give blood.

Those donating will receive a T-shirt, cookies and a holiday hero pin.

For more information on giving blood, sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive or volunteer opportunities with the Red Cross, call the American Red Cross at 1-888-432-5663 or 896-4511.

It was good to see Eddie Murtagh the other day when I went to the tax collector's office to pay my property taxes.

Mr. Eddie was just at the office visiting Jimmie Ladner and the deputies during the holiday season.

I am glad that Eddie is doing good and adjusting to his well-deserved free time.

The telephone book recycling for 2000 in Hancock County is over, and some major numbers of directories were collected this year, according to preliminary figures released Friday by the Chamber of Commerce.

The leading school in the county was St. Clare School in Waveland with a total of 4,026 books. Now folks, that is a lot of telephone books. Hats off to St. Clare's administration, teachers, parents, and most important, students.

Appreciation also goes to Fayard's Fast Freight who supplies transportation for the books collected along the Coast.

The Hancock County Chamber, Board of Supervisors and BellSouth sponsor the event each year, and Fayard Fast Freight donates the transportation of the books to be recycled.

Carleen Moran, chamber executive director, said there was even assistance offered by Dr. James Crittenden, who offered help if needed to haul the books. Thanks Doc for your efforts, too.

To all the participating schools and students, your work in gathering the 17,400-plus telephone directories has saved much vital space in our landfills.

Tomorrow marks the beginning of the year 2001.

We look across the world and there are many countries, such as in the Middle East, in turmoil.

There are problems in this country, but they are minor when you look at what others face.

True, we have been through one of the closest elections for a president probably in the over 200-year history of America, but now is the time to once again pull together as a nation.

On the local scene there are many things being accomplished and many more needing consideration. All of our officials need to continue to work together, because much more can be accomplished.

To each and every one of our friends, we wish you and your family a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

## The Sea Coast Echo

USPS 487-100

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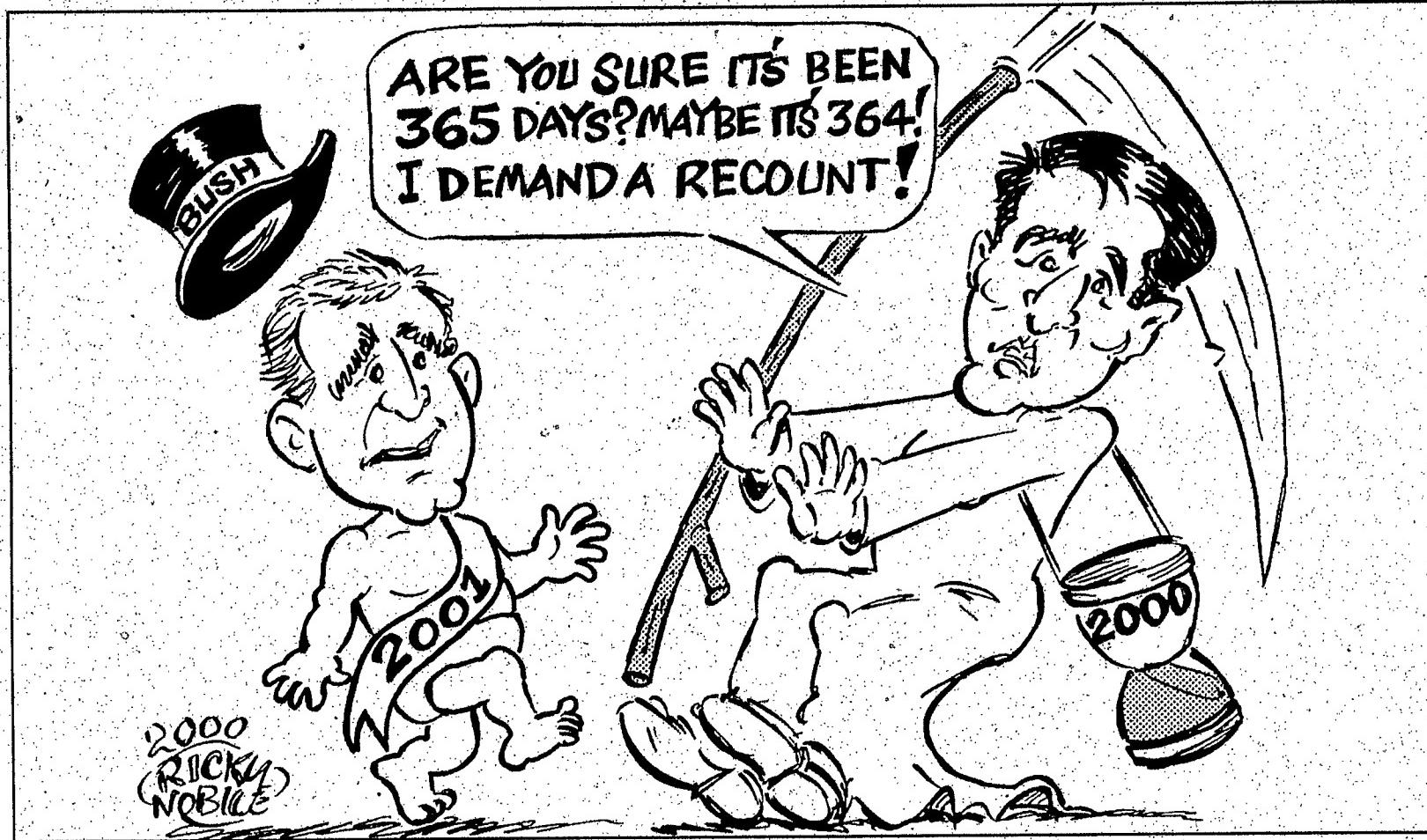
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## Closing the book on 2000

As we close out the year 2000, we can look back on a number of significant accomplishments that were good news for South Mississippi.

First and foremost, for the first time in 30 years, our nation had a true, on-budget surplus of \$8 billion dollars for Fiscal Year 2000 that ended on September 30.

Those who claimed we had a surplus during the previous budget year were misleading our citizens, because they balanced the budget by using trust funds that are reserved by law to pay for Social Security, federal retirement, and health care and disability benefits.

This \$8 billion is not enough to make up for 30 years of deficits and the \$1 billion interest that we are paying each day on the \$5.7 trillion national debt, but it is a start.

Since I was first elected in 1989, putting our nation's fiscal house in order has been my highest priority. Fiscal responsibility on the part of the federal government will remain my top priority.

After a long struggle, the U.S. House of Representatives finally kept a promise to our military retirees. The Fiscal 2001 Defense Authorization Bill expanded lifetime health care that our military retirees were promised, they earned and they deserve.

The final defense bill improves military readiness, modernization of our military and will make an overall improvement in the quality of life for the men and women serving in our Armed Forces.

Pay increases for our military personnel and improved housing benefits were also included in the defense bill.

On the final day of the 106th Congress, I'm extremely pleased that we were able to authorize the purchase of Cat Island for inclusion into the Gulf Islands National Seashore.

With great help on my legislation from U.S. Senators Thad Cochran and Trent Lott, we can now protect this pristine island in the Mississippi Sound for the use and enjoyment of future generations of south Mississippians and visitors to our area. Cat Island is truly the crown jewel of the series of coastal islands that stretch from Florida to Mississippi.

Another major accomplishment near the end of the 106th Congress was the passage of legislation to make beneficial use of dredged materials.

This is a step in the right direction for creating more coastal marshes and an improved environment. These marshes are vital for shrimp, menhaden and other species of fish, and they are also critical for our coastal wetlands as nat-

ural filters for pollutants found in storm water runoff.

This is a win-win situation that will save taxpayer dollars while giving us an improved environment and improved shrimping and recreational fishing.

Other benefits for South Mississippi that came during the second session of the 106th Congress.

Those who claimed we had a surplus during the previous budget year were misleading our citizens, because they balanced the budget by using trust funds that are reserved by law to pay for Social Security, federal retirement, and health care and disability benefits.

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## IN CONGRESS

By Representative  
Gene Taylor

## Letters to the Editor

### More codes, more cost to the taxpayer

To the Editor:

Don't you wish government was made as simple to understand as the NFL? Sunday's sports page lets you know when to watch. Monday's paper lets you know what happened, and TV's pre-shows inform us of what could happen.

There was a meeting in Hancock County's Kiln library with many angered people concerned about the raise in the cost of building permits from \$50 to \$500 and as many as 14 electrical outlets in one room.

I was not at the meeting, but would like to be better informed seeing that we are part of the team. We own property and pay taxes. We need to

be better informed as to what play to make. Maybe we need better coaches and some game plans before we lose or fumble the ball.

The whole team must be in the huddle to hear the strategies. We don't want to be just buying the tickets and supporting the team. We want to be on the team.

Our problem is we are only part-time players. We need a second string to go in and score when we are busy supporting our families and paying taxes. They need to win the game for us. They're on our payroll. They are our elected government officials and our newspapers.

Is there going to be any

information for the taxpayers to review, or will it be put in effect with little knowledge of the cost?

We need to be better informed of this kind of change in codes and cost. It should be newsworthy, unlike the Harrison County ban on walking your dog on the beach with no vote by the people and no compromise of times or zones and no before-hand information.

The second string dropped the ball on that one. Maybe they can make it up in the fourth quarter.

Linda Peterson  
Gulfport

### Mental illness should be treated as any other illness

To the Editor:

As a family member with a loved one with a mental illness the experience of the illness plus the financial reality becomes even a greater challenge and causes additional grief, sorrow, and hopelessness.

A mental illness is a lifetime disease, and the only way to a normal life is through medication and treatment. Mental illnesses are chemical imbalances in the brain.

The right medications will put the chemicals back in balance. One must take medication the rest of his/her life once the illness has developed.

Science has proven that mental disorders or physical disorders are the same as heart disease, lung disease, cancer and diabetes and should be treated and covered the same way as these medical diseases.

Parity means insurers would offer the same benefits for mental disorders as they would for all other physical diseases.

When my son first became ill our insurance would not cover him unless he attended college.

Like other families we faced reality and put our son on the public system. Insurance poli-

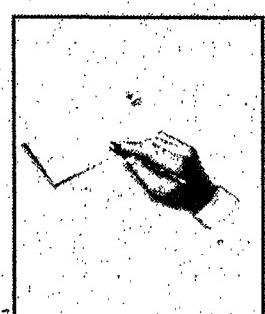
they could get insurance through employment to cover their illness.

This would bring much needed relief to the public system giving others chronically ill the opportunity for a better life. Ending discrimination is the right thing to do. The public is better informed, and 93 percent support nondiscriminatory insurance.

Mary Ann Renz  
Executive Director  
NAMI  
(Mississippi Voice  
on Mental Illness)  
Jackson

## Our letters policy

The Sea Coast Echo welcomes comments from its readers. Letters must be signed and include address or telephone number. Letters should be brief, preferably typewritten and double-spaced. Only one letter per writer per month. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters. Letters of thanks, expressions of appreciation and political endorsements are inappropriate.



## Hawk Pride Essay Contest winners

Earlier this school year, Superintendent of Education Mike Ladner challenged Hancock Middle School students to write an essay about Hawk Pride – what it means to be proud of your school's academics and athletics, faculty/staff, peers, and others.

Many students submitted entries, and one essay from each grade was selected based on content and grammar.

The winners, 8th grader Micah Ladner, 7th grader Hannah Hill, and 6th grader

Randa Lee, recently spent the day with Superintendent Ladner.

They visited the central office and toured each school facility in the district to learn more about day-to-day activities taking place at each site.

Throughout the day the students encountered teachers, administrators, staff, and other students who echoed the importance of Hawk Pride in the Hancock County School District.



From left, Hancock School District Personnel Director David Kopf explains teaching requirements to Micah Ladner, Randa Lee, and Hannah Hill during the recent Hawk Pride Essay Contest tour.

## Garriga initiated into honor societies

Mary Ann Garriga of Diamondhead was inducted to Golden Key National Honor Society at The University of Mississippi recently. Garriga is a junior majoring in pharmacy at Ole Miss.

Golden Key's objective is to unite diverse individuals while nurturing and rewarding the academic efforts of top students in all disciplines.

"It is only fitting that such a high academic achiever be recognized by Golden Key," said Jim Lewis, national founder and executive director of the society.

"Our members are inspired and motivated by the challenge not only to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments but also to make a positive impact on our world through the Society's commitment to service."

Garriga is also among the Fall 2000 initiates into Phi



Mary Ann Garriga

Kappa Phi academic honor society at The University of Mississippi.

Chartered at Ole Miss in 1959, Phi Kappa Phi is the University's highest academic honor society that recognizes scholarship in all academic disciplines.



**Diamondhead Daisies Help Hope Haven**  
Front from left, Amy Love, Hannah Wood, Kendall Ritten; back row, Sarah Boozer, Emma McRaney, Camille Swanson, and Andrea Holliman are shown with the diaries they donated to Hope Haven of Hancock County for the Christmas holiday. The Daisies of Diamondhead Troop 194 earmarked half of the activity fee from their meeting to purchase the diaries for their Christmas community service project. This was their way of sharing the Christmas spirit with the children at Hope Haven.

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### HHS Drama Club/Thespian Society

The Hancock High School Drama Club/Thespian Society competed in the South Mississippi High School Drama Festival in Hattiesburg Nov. 30 - Dec. 2. The group performed 'The 15-Minute Hamlet' by Tom Soppard. They competed against 11 other high schools and received an overall merit award. Three of the group's performers, Alex Ladner, Ian Miller, and Jonathan Peel, were named to the All Star Cast for their exceptional performance. Members are, back row from left, Dennis Barton, Alex Ladner, Justin Strawley and Katie Easter, front row, Becca Parrish, Jonathan Peel, Ian Miller and Owen Sullivan.



### "The Gingerbread Baby"

Jonathan Cameron, a first grade student at East Hancock Elementary in Robin Gex's class, decorates a gingerbread house made with milk cartons, graham crackers, cake frosting, and "goodies". The activity accompanied the story "The Gingerbread Baby".

### Taylor

Continued from Page 4

funding for Bell-Avon Industries in Picayune to build rubber skirts for Marine Corps hovercraft

+ Military construction projects for Camp Shelby, Keesler Air Force Base, Gulfport's Seabee Base and the Navy at the Stennis Space Center.

+ COPS grants and other law enforcement grants to fight crime were awarded to Moss Point, Biloxi, Pascagoula, Gulfport, Picayune, Poplarville, Wiggins, Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Long Beach and Greene County

+ Numerous grants for the University of Southern Mississippi, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources and the Gulf Coast Research Lab

+ Funding for airport improvements in Hattiesburg, Gulfport-Biloxi and Pascagoula.

+ Funding for highway projects in Hattiesburg-Lamar County, Gulfport, Long Beach and funds for the Coast Transit Authority. Additional funding for rail crossing projects in Gulfport and Long Beach.

+ Disaster aid for farmers in Forrest, Jasper and Perry Counties

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## Public Notice

City of Waveland, Mississippi

The Waveland Aldermen will not conduct a workshop meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2001.

The regular Waveland Aldermen's meeting will take place at 6:30pm, Wednesday, January 3, 2001 in the board room located at City Hall Annex, 307 Coleman Ave, Waveland, MS.

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## Holiday Greetings

The Committee to elect

**Harry B. Ward**  
as Justice Court Judge

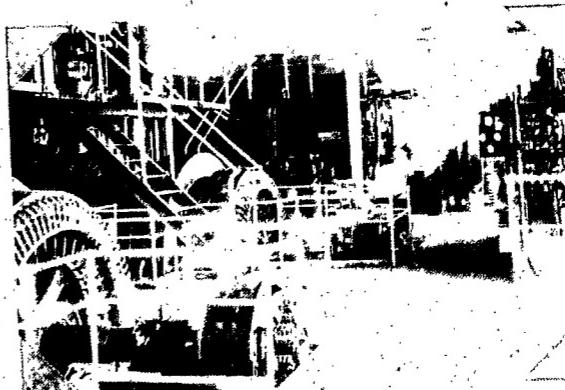
Wish you and yours a  
Healthy & Safe Holiday Season!!

Gerard Hudson  
Campaign Manager

P.O. Box 481  
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520  
467-4678

## Things change...

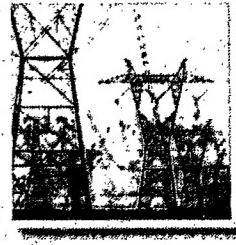
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**HHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes adopts children**  
The Hancock High School Fellowship of Christian Athletes adopted 10 children from Hancock County in order to provide less fortunate families with a special Christmas. There were approximately 110 gifts donated by 48 students and six employees to The Salvation Army's Adopt an Angel program. Most donations were necessities such as shirts, pants, socks, shoes, and jackets. FCA Sponsor Michael R. Ladner said, "Our students displayed a tremendous act of giving. They took their time to buy and wrap gifts for anonymous, needy children in Hancock County. FCA was excited and enthusiastic about this project. These students truly are shining examples of the great young people in Hancock County and Hancock High School in particular."



#### OLA's Pepsi Students

Our Lady Academy announces the Pepsi Students of the Month for November. They are, from left, Jennifer Coote, 8th grade; Megan Walton, sophomore; Emma Carver, freshman; Kimberly Gilmore, 7th grade; Adrienne Kren, junior; and Kristin D. Ladner, senior. Students are selected from each grade level for their academics, citizenship, athletic and school activity involvement, character, and service.



**Austa Chazez**  
Waveland Elementary September Pepsi Student of the Month is Austa Chazez, third grade. She was selected because she displays the character traits of being dependable, honest, enthusiastic, reliable, well mannered, trustworthy, friendly, and self-disciplined.

Other nominees for September were Chesni Wing, Brandon Miller, Chelsea Levy, Hayden Ladner, and Brittany Colson.



**Megan Widish**

Waveland Elementary October Pepsi Student of the Month is Megan Widish, third grade student in Ms. Stewart's class. She was selected because she displays the characteristics of being dependable, honest, enthusiastic, reliable, well mannered, trustworthy, friendly, and self-disciplined. Other nominees for October Pepsi Student of the Month at Waveland Elementary were Marshall Bennett, Jody Favre, Michael Binet, and Meggie Lafontaine.



**Chesni Wing**

Waveland Elementary November Pepsi Student of the Month is Chesni Wing, third grade student in Ms. Murray's class. She was selected because she displays the characteristics of being dependable, honest, enthusiastic, reliable, well mannered, trustworthy, friendly, and self-disciplined. Other nominees were Allison Calhoun, Ashley Cucurullo, Lyndi Cuevas, Kimberly Gibson, Colby Huff, and Hayden Ladner.

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## Charles B. Murphy receives gifts from Boeing Rocketdyne

Charles B. Murphy Elementary recently received an early Christmas present as Boeing Rocketdyne employees from Stennis Space Center presented each student in grades K-3 with a new book.

Boeing Rocketdyne is Charles B. Murphy's Adopt-a-School partner and offered the gifts through the "Books for Kids" program.

Dave Geiger, Boeing site director; Joyce Lawrence, human resources specialist; and Brad Roundtree, staff analyst, were on hand as Boeing employees Steve Parr and Sherry Barrera distributed the 100 books to students.

Charles B. Murphy principal Lenette Ladner expressed her gratitude to Boeing and emphasized the importance of student achievement through reading.

Students, parents, and staff also enjoyed hearing Jeanne Brooks, C.B. Murphy librarian, read *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg.

### OLA participates in Youth Legislature

Twenty-five girls from Our Lady Academy attended the 36th session of the Youth Legislative Assembly held in Jackson in November. The OLA delegation sponsored 12 bills and received eight awards, and three students ran for an office.

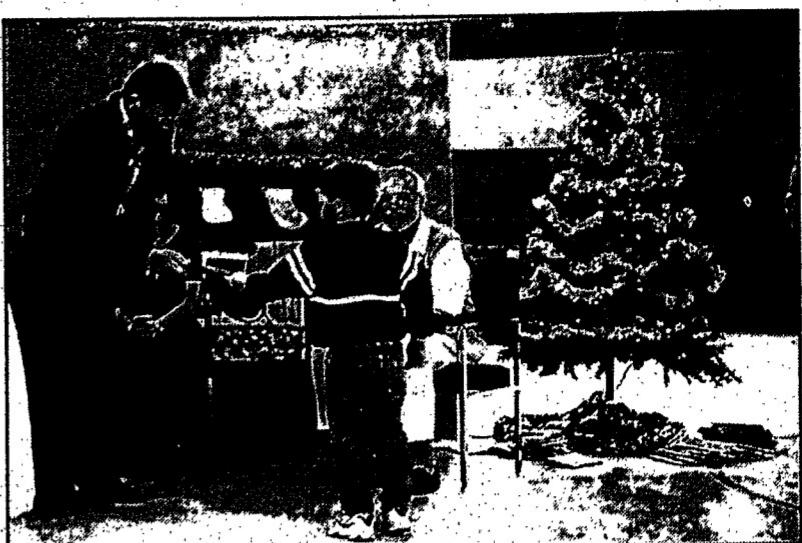
Erica Benvenuti was elected president pro-tem of the Senate and will preside in the April session of the Junior Youth Legislature.

Colleen Bartholomew received the highest honor any delegate can receive - outstanding statesman. She received 23 of the 27 sponsor votes for this award.

Keith Puckett, Kate Moran, and Christina Fonte were named outstanding senators. Erica Benvenuti, Megan Hunter, Candace Mixon, and Colleen Bartholomew were named outstanding representatives.

Two OLA bills were signed by the governor: House Bill 77 (authored by Shawn Negrotto and Susan Goode) and House Bill 41 (authored by Ashley Roth and Bevin Wilkinson).

Rachel Zimmerman received many favorable comments about her performance in committee in defense of her bill.



A Charles B. Murphy Elementary student accepts a book from Boeing Rocketdyne employee Steve Parr.

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## HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

Homestead exemption applications will be taken from January 2, 2001 through March 30, 2001. These applications must be filed in the Bay St. Louis office of the Hancock County Tax Assessor between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm.

You must be living in your home as of January 1, 2001 to qualify for homestead exemption for the current year.

The following information is needed to file your application.

- A) warranty deed
- B) cost of property
- C) down payment amount
- D) license plate numbers for vehicles registered in Hancock County (must have vehicles registered in Hancock County)
- E) If you are over 65 proof of age
- F) If you are receiving 100% disability benefits proof of your disability
- G) If you have vehicles licensed in other states you must show reason
- H) Is any part of the property rented?

You must re-file your homestead exemption application if:

- A) You became 65 years of age.
- B) You became 100% disabled.
- C) You acquired a new residence.
- D) You acquired additional property that adjoins your homestead.
- E) Your marital status changed (divorced, widowed, separated etc.)

If you have any questions please call 228-467-4425 or 888-409-6239.

Jimmie Ladner Jr.  
Tax Assessor / Collector  
Hancock County

# SPORTS

## Lady Tigers win own tournament

BY JOSEPH W. GEX II

Staff Writer

The Bay High Lady Tigers claimed top honors in the school's annual Christmas Basketball Tournament held this week in the Tiger Dome. Pass Christian took the boys' title.

In the finals of the girls action, Bay High breezed past Gautier 69-42 behind a 24-point fourth period. In that span of eight minutes, the Lady Tigers held the Lady Gators to just six points. Shenma Ambrose led the Lady Tigers with 16 points. Felicia Thomas and Natalie Acker added 15 points in the win while Kendra Reed canned 11 points.

In the final boys game of the tournament, Pass Christian disposed of Bay High 67-48. The Pirates took a commanding 26-11 lead after the first period and never looked back. The Pirates were led by Calvin Woods with 18 points. Maurice Hardnett and Vuong Nguyen scored 16 and 11 points, respectively. Cory Todd led the Tigers and all scorers with 21 points followed by Jarrod Alexander and Zach Nichols with 13 points each.

The Lady Tigers defeated Pascagoula 56-45 and Northshore of Slidell 77-41 to reach the finals. Gautier topped Harrison Central 52-49 and Picayune 42-23 to reach the final game.

In the boys round-robin action, Bay High fell in all three games of the tournament. The Tigers dropped contests to Morton 69-52 and St. John 55-46 before the final game with Pass High. Pass High completed the tournament with three victories. The Pirates defeated Morton 61-55 and St. John 58-49 before dropping Bay High.

The Morton boys team claimed the runner-up trophy for victories against Bay High 69-52 and St. John 68-43.

The All-Tournament selections for the girls were Morgan Causey of Northshore, Latoya Carson of Long Beach, Alicia Weathersby of Harrison Central, Candace Joe of Pascagoula, Monica Dease of Picayune, Tara Grieves of Morton, Julia Jordan of Gautier, Stephanie Reed of Bay High, and Shenma Ambrose of Bay High.

The All-Tournament picks for the boys were Zach Nichols of Bay High, Todd Butler of Morton, Eddie Parks of St. John, Calvin Woods of Pass Christian, and Brad Cook of Pass Christian.

Bay High athletic director and head girls basketball coach Debbie Triplett commented on the tournament, "The tournament went very well. I know for us, our girls played better as a team. We had different players stepping up each night which was good to see. All the teams that participated had a wonderful time and stated that they would like to play in the tournament again next year."

"There were a lot of compet-

itive games during the three days. Morton, who traveled the furthest, enjoyed their stay on the Coast and expressed a great deal of interest in returning. All in all, it was a very successful tournament with big crowds and competitive athletes," Triplett added.

The participating teams in the tournament were Bay High, Pass Christian, St. John of Gulfport, and Morton High School. On the girls side, Bay High was the host. Other teams included Picayune, Gautier, Pascagoula, Northshore of Louisiana, Harrison Central, Morton, and Long Beach.

Morton High School, a 2A school, traveled the furthest to participate coming from an area of Mississippi located 35 miles east of Jackson on Interstate 20. Morton might be best remembered to sports fans for producing Ole Miss' All-American all-purpose back Deuce McAllister. He is projected to be a first-round draft pick in the April 2001 NFL draft.

The Morton basketball team keeps the family together for the holidays. Danny Grieves is the boys coach while his wife, Kim, is the girls head coach.

Morton boys head coach

Danny Grieves commented, "We absolutely loved coming down here this year. The hospitality and other coaches were very receptive to us. We try to get our team away from the outside distractions and play some good competition."

Graduation will be kind to us this year as we lose just one senior. Plus, we have a tremendous ninth grade group coming. We would definitely love to come back next season, if we are lucky enough to get invited back."

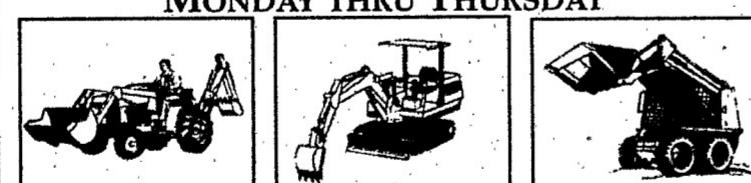
Kim Grieves, Morton girls head coach, stated, "This was a great trip for our girls. It really helped prepare us for our district tournament coming up. We hear about the big teams like Harrison Central and Pascagoula. We know what their reputation is. But, in this tournament we were able to play them. Our girls played very hard and accomplished what we set out to do. We proved to ourselves that we can play with the bigger teams. It was a positive for us coming down here."

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*pictured: Spencer Gray, in-house jeweler, assists customer*

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What's new at Best Pawn? When Phil and Terri aren't chasing their son, Brandon, age 2, they are constantly thinking of ways to better serve you their valued customer. Best Pawn's website is currently under construction. Be sure to visit it at [www.BestPawn.com](http://www.BestPawn.com) or e-mail the owner at [Phil@BestPawn.com](mailto:Phil@BestPawn.com). Phil is open for suggestions on how to meet his customers needs. Visit Best Pawn's during the huge clearance sale going on now. Best Pawn is conveniently located next to the post office on highway 90 in Bay St. Louis. They are open 8-6 Monday through Friday and 8 - 4 Saturday. For more info call 467-7777.

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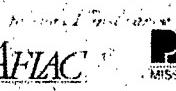
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## Weddings and Engagements

### Maggiore-Flowers wed

Karen Kendra Flowers of Picayune, and Frank Anthony Maggiore, also of Picayune, were united in marriage November 25, 2000 in an evening ceremony in the United Methodist Church in Bay St. Louis. The Rev. Van Carpenter officiated. Soloists were Andrea Meranto and Bryan Cuevas, and organist was Jeanne Smith.

The bride is the daughter of the late Jimmy and Alice Ladner. The groom's parents are Frank L. Maggiore of Picayune and the late Joyce Leckie Maggiore.

The bride was given in marriage by her sons, Rocky and Bryce Flowers. For the occasion the bride chose a gown by Michaelangelo. A-line, fashioned of white Italian matte satin featuring long sleeves and schiffli lace throughout the bodice, sleeves, skirt and train with a scalloped neckline and back. Pearl beading and sequins were scattered throughout the flowered pattern of the lace.

Matron of honor was Andrea Meranto.

Bridesmaids included Connie Taylor, Carrie Spiers and Mandy Ladner.

Flower girls were Jordyn and Amber Meranto, and ring bearer was Blake Meranto.

Best man was Joe Smith, and usher was Clifford Ladner, uncle of the bride.

A reception followed the ceremony at the Dupont Clubhouse in DeLisle.

A rehearsal dinner was hosted by Evon Shiyu, Kellie Carvin and Beverly Necessaire.

After a honeymoon trip to San Francisco, Calif. and Lake Tahoe, Nev. the couple will reside in Picayune.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Maggiore

### Sinclair-Burt to wed

Robert Lee and Terri Moran Sinclair of Hattiesburg announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Erin Marie Sinclair, to Shaun D. Burt, son of Anissa Burt of Hattiesburg, and the late Sam Burt and Richard and Cindy Moss of Chatsworth, Ga.

The bride-elect is a Hattiesburg High School graduate and attended Jones County Jr. College in Ellisville. She is employed with Union Planters PMAC. She is the granddaughter of Mary Catherine and Leo Moran of Bay St. Louis and Tena Forte Sinclair of Hattiesburg and the late Thomas Sinclair.

The prospective groom is a Sardis High School, Ala. graduate and attended Snead State Junior College in Boaz, Ala. He is employed with Dossett Pontiac Cadillac GMC Trucks, Inc. He is the grandson of Terry and Annette Sorrells of Dallas, and the late Thomas Sinclair.



Erin Sinclair

The wedding will take place January 13, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church in Hattiesburg.

A reception will follow at Jackie Dole Sherrill Community Center.

### Take Off Pounds Sensibly

TOPS MS 307 Waveland met Wednesday, Dec. 27 at the Waveland Public Library with eight members present.

Ruth was the week's best loser with four pounds. Jeri was top KOPS. Ruth won the incentive award, and Rhonda won the raffle.

TOPS 307 also met Dec. 20 with nine members present. Ruth was the week's best loser.

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Mary Powell and Benjamin Murphy

### Powell-Murphy plan January wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy R. Powell of Gulfport announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Mary Katherine Powell, to Benjamin Joseph Murphy, son of Ray and Claudia Murphy of Bay St. Louis.

The bride-elect is a Harrison Central High School graduate and a 1998 graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg where she was on the Dean's List and earned a bachelor of science degree in exercise physiology. She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Powell and the late Mr. and Mrs. Wendall A. Yarbrough.

The prospective groom is a Bay High School graduate and in 1998 received a bachelor of arts degree in criminal justice from the University of Southern Mississippi. He was

commissioned a U.S. Army 2 LT in 1998 and is presently a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, stationed at Camp Humphreys in South Korea.

He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Decell of Bay St. Louis and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Spotorno of Bay St. Louis.

The marriage will take place January 13, 2001 at 7 p.m. in Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis.

### Recycling education volunteers needed

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi Recycling Coalition are seeking the assistance from volunteers state-wide to assist in recycling education; promoting recycling through presentations and other events; planning, developing and distributing recycling and solid waste reduction guidance materials; and other recycling related activities in the state of Mississippi.

If you are interested in learning more about this volunteer outreach program, contact Larry Estes, state recycling coordinator at 601/961-5036 or by e-mail at larry.estes@deq.state.ms.us

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Your choice of available backgrounds; some group bookings apply.

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Thursday, January 4 - Monday, January 8  
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### Happy Holidays!!

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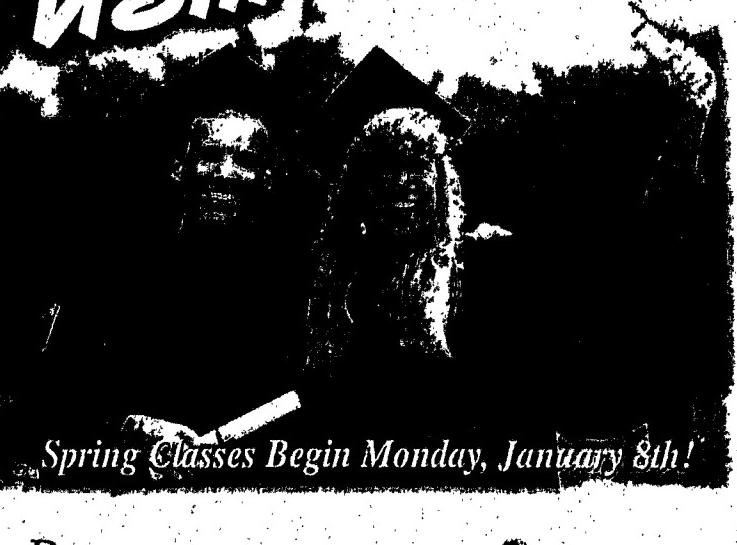


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# BUSINESS NEWS

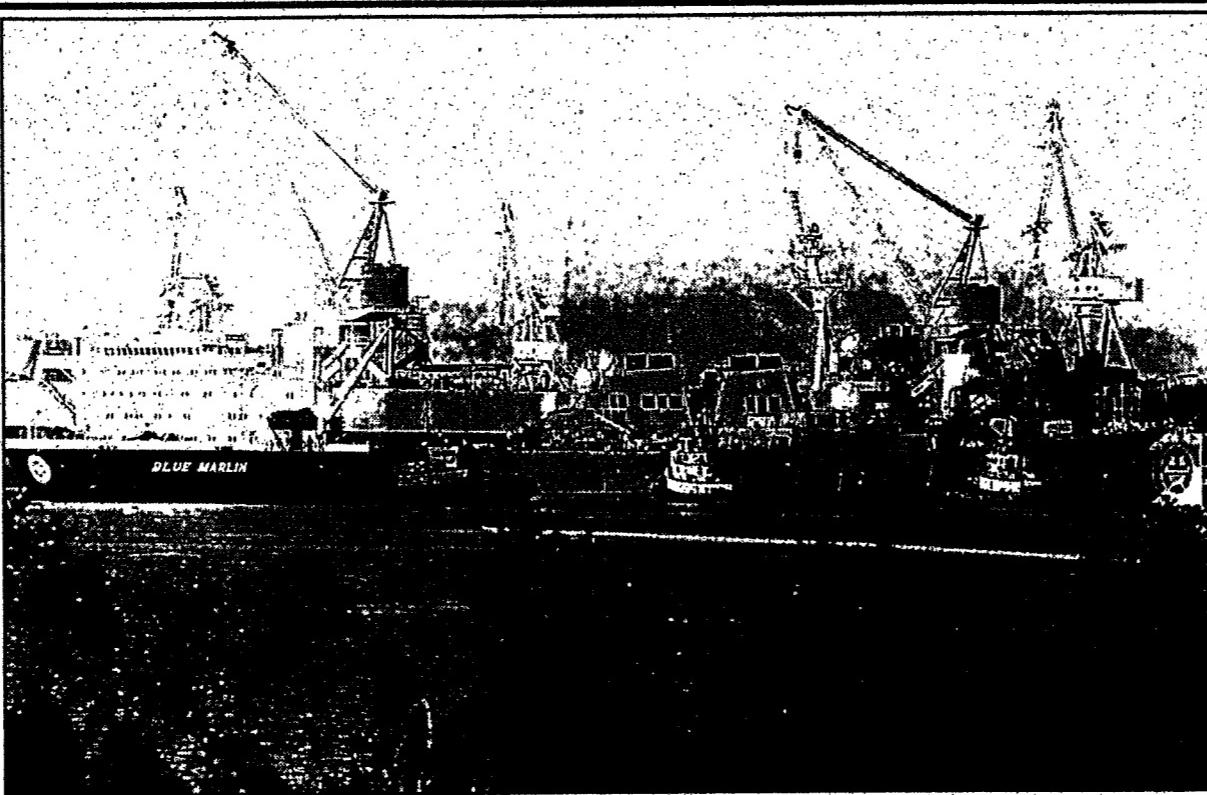
## Business workshop offered

The USM Small Business Development Center is offering a workshop, "Thinking About Going Into Business?" Thursday, Jan. 25, 1:30-4 p.m. at the Auditorium, Gulfport Police Department Auditorium, 2220 15th Street, Gulfport.

The workshop is for anyone interested in starting a small business and will cover general small business start-up information, such as licensing, taxes, zoning, market research, business planning, and financing.

The instructor will be Jill Scafide, business analyst at the USM Small Business Development Center.

The fee is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. For information, contact the USM Small Business Development Center at 228-865-4578.



### Farewell, Blue Marlin

On December 24, the Aegis guided missile destroyer USS COLE (DDG 67) was undocked from the heavy lift ship BLUE MARLIN, aboard which USS COLE rode from Yemen to Litton Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, following an October terrorist attack. BLUE MARLIN was ballasted down in Ingalls' launch/recovery pit at the company's west bank facility, and DDG 67 floated free. Following the undocking, the ship returned to Pier 4 at Ingalls' east bank facility. USS COLE arrived at Ingalls, where the ship was built in the mid-1990s, on December 13. The ship will be moved to Naval Station Pascagoula in early January for weapons offload; before being placed back on land at Ingalls for restoration work beginning in mid-January. The restoration project to return the destroyer to U.S. Navy Fleet duty is expected to last approximately a year. (Litton/Ingalls Shipbuilding photo)

## Bank announces loan officer promotions

Hancock Bank President and Chief Executive Officer George A. Schloegel recently announced loan and mortgage loan officer promotions approved during the Hancock Holding Company and Hancock Bank Board of Directors regular December 2000 meeting. Hancock employees receiving promotions included:

### Tammy Cuevas Loan Officer

Joining Hancock Bank in April 1999 as an associate lender at the Popp's Ferry branch, Cuevas brought over 10 years of banking experience to the company.

Currently a retail lender at the Popp's Ferry branch, the D'Iberville native graduated from D'Iberville High School and attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

### Jacqueline Ann McDonald Loan Officer

Originally from Gautier, McDonald is a retail lender at Hancock's Pascagoula main branch. She joined Hancock Bank in November 1997 as a Gautier-Vancleave branch teller.

McDonald attended Monticello High School and Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

She also completed several banking courses. McDonald is a 74B software analyst for the United States Army National Guard and financial secretary for the New House of Prayer.

### James Roberts, Jr. Loan Officer

Now a commercial leasing

representative with Hancock Bank's leasing department, Roberts joined the Hancock team in February 1994 as a retail lender at the Gautier branch.

The D'Iberville native graduated from D'Iberville High School and attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. He attended Commercial Credit School and completed several American Institute of Banking (AIB) courses.

### Pam Daniels Loan Operations Officer

Gulfport native and Gulfport High School graduate Daniels has been with Hancock Bank for over 15 years.

Starting part-time in automated central information files (CIF), she is Hancock's Loan Operations supervisor.

Daniels attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, graduated from Hancock's supervisory and leadership schools, and completed several AIB courses.

### Nancy Perkins Mortgage Loan Officer

Portsmouth, Va., native Perkins joined Hancock Bank 12 years ago and now serves as a mortgage loan originator with Hancock Mortgage Corporation.

She attended Old Dominion College in Norfolk, Va., and Richmond Professional Institute in Richmond, Va. A graduate of the Mississippi Realtors Institute, Perkins holds a current real estate license and has completed several Mortgage Bankers Association of America professional courses.

Shaw is involved with the Gulf Coast Home Builders Association, the Gulf Coast Board of Realtors, the Mortgage Bankers Association, and the Exchange Club.

Readers can learn more about Hancock Holding Company and Hancock Bank at [www.hancockbank.com](http://www.hancockbank.com).

## Gertrude Gardner, Prudential Louisiana Properties merge

The Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc. announced that Gertrude Gardner Realtors, New Orleans' largest and oldest locally-owned real estate company under the same family leadership, has merged with Prudential Louisiana Properties, consistently one of the top 10 Prudential Real Estate Network member companies nationwide, to form Prudential Gardner, Realtors.

The new company will specialize in residential, commercial, fine home and relocation activities.

The merger of New Orleans-based Gertrude Gardner, Realtors, including its subsidiary Martha Ann Samuel, Inc. Realtors, and Prudential Louisiana Properties, including its sister company, Prudential Bailey Real Estate, is effective January 1.

Throughout metropolitan New Orleans, southern Mississippi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Gertrude Gardner, Realtors, has 21 offices, approximately 800 licensed sales professionals and brokers and 75 employees.

Prudential Louisiana Properties has 14 offices, more than 500 licensed sales professionals and brokers and 58 employees.

The combined entity creates metropolitan New Orleans' largest residential real estate company with 1,300 sales professionals, 35 offices and more than 30 percent market share, which is 50% more residential sales volume in metro New Orleans area than the company's next closest competitor in

metro New Orleans and the surrounding areas.

Together, both companies generated in excess of \$13 billion in sales in 1999.

Barbara H. Blades, president and CEO of Prudential Louisiana Properties, will be president of residential services; Glen M. Gardner, Gertrude Gardner, Realtors' CEO and president, will become president of operations; and Norris Songe, CFO of Prudential Louisiana Properties, will be president of client services.

Gertrude Gardner, Realtors has been known as home grown, locally owned and nationally known for many years, and now as part of this larger entity, Prudential Gardner, Realtors, we'll still be homegrown and locally owned, but now even internationally known."

The new company will continue to leverage relocation

opportunities through its existing capabilities by working closely with Prudential Relocation and the Fine Homes and Resort Properties programs, along with a host of award-winning technology solutions.

These include PREA Center, which is the network's private Intranet site for its professionals, and its proprietary eCertified® program, which distinguishes Prudential Real Estate professionals by their ability to be fluent in delivering information and marketing services both online and through traditional channels.

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BELLSOUTH/BLS	40 15/16	+1 7/16
BOEING/BA	66	+2 8/16
CALGON CARBON/CCC	5 11/16	+1 11/16
CHEVRON CORP/CHV	84 8/16	+3 15/16
COCA COLA/KO	60 10/16	+2 1/16
CSX CORP/CSX	25 15/16	+1/16
DUPONT/DD	48	+6/16
FRIEDE GOLDMAN HALTER, INC	3 9/16	+1/16
GENERAL ELEC/GE	47 15/16	+15/16
GOODYEAR TIRE/GT	23	+1 15/16
HANCOCK HOLDING CO/HBHC	38 1/4	+2 1/4
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K MART CORP/KM	5 5/16	+1 11/16
LOCKHEED MARTIN/LMT	33 15/16	+1 7/16
PARK PLACE ENT/PPE	11 15/16	+5/16
PEOPLES FINANCIAL/PFBX	17 1/4	+1/2
MCDONALDS CORP/MCD	34	+5 5/16
REGIONS FINANCIAL/RGBR	27 6/16	-1/4
ROCKWELL INTL CORP/ROK	47 5/8	+6 5/16
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## --AREA DEVOTIONAL &amp; DIRECTORY PAGES

**Most of our fears are bogus**

So intense and pervasive for a couple of years, Y2K and Millennium fears are no more than a footnote to history. Sure, there was a small bit of substance to Y2K, since almost everything is locked into computers. But the bottom line was that many willingly paid big bucks to preclude a meltdown.

Millennium opportunists licked their chops when they saw the anxieties and fears surrounding the last ticks of the century and the millennium.

Some saw it as a totally unique opportunity to promote Armageddon, the end of time, and the Final Judgment. Others saw a juicy application of capitalism.

Seeing a clear opportunity to make a once-in-a-lifetime profit, expert computer technicians worked hard at programming software, licked most of the impending problems, graciously accepted the money from companies with giant computer hookups, and laughed all the way to the bank.

Yet, not all is lost if these bogus fears taught us a lesson. We should have learned once and for all that the only viable measure of life is this very day.

Millennium is only a number. Century is only a number. And numbers of themselves have no power, magic, understanding or hope.

Furthermore, we cannot possess a millennium or a century. We

love to say, "Happy New Year!" but we cannot possess a year, or a month or a week. We are even hard pressed to take charge of a single day. But that is at least bite size, especially when we break it down into hours and moments.

Just listen to the gripping accounts of recovering alcoholics and other addicts, and you will have a far greater appreciation of now and today, as well as the importance of turning over all our misgivings, anxieties, fears, sadness and depression to the Higher Power who can and will dispel them.

"One day at a time" often translates better into "One hour at a time," and then at times better, "Just moment to moment." Whatever small part of a time frame it takes to survive and excel as a human being is what each of us needs according to our personal condition and circumstances.

But, have we learned a vital, lifelong lesson from the scams and feverishly foolish anxieties and activities centered around the Millennium?

Have we been burned and embarrassed to the point where we will feel foolish to bank on numbers, to build our life and world around impotent, irrational years?

Have we torn ourselves away from the romance and fantasy built into magic numbers such as century and millennium? A year

ago we were concluding both the last millennium and the last century. If there were ever going to be magic in numbers, that alignment had to be it.

Well, hello! Hundreds of millions of people around the globe were rudely awakened to the reality that no millennium, no century is any different from today, except that it contains a whole bunch of today's.

To their everlasting chagrin and/or relief, they found that today is like every other today, except for the various adjustments we make from day to day.

Not unlike the magic we tend to attach to the alignment of the planets and stars, the whole century/millennium thing went bust.

People who had stored food, water and mechanical conveniences quickly discovered that they had troubled their nerves, peace, and pocketbook in vain.

"Better safe than sorry?" There are cases when that is true, as in 1976, when President Carter ordered the whole country to take

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- 30 Lost & Found
- 34 Personals
- 36 Special Notices

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- 46 Home Improvement
- 53 Schools & Instruction
- 56 Services Offered
- 58 Lawn & Garden

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- 63 Business Opportunities
- 66 Child Care
- 70 Employment
- 73 Help Wanted
- 76 Situation/Job Wanted

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**AAA TRASH HAULING AND GRASS cutting.** 467-1577 or 467-4266, anytime.

**CARPENTRY WORK OF ALL TYPES.** Additions & remodeling. 463-9451.

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**DALE'S DIRT SERVICE:** TRACTOR work, top-soil, yard sand, clay, gravel, fill dirt, limestone, gravel. 255-2656 or Beep 516-2656.

**DUMP TRUCK & TRACTOR SERVICE:** fill dirt, sand, gravel, limestone, lot clearing, bush hogging. 467-6199 or 467-9603.

**EDON SPECIALTY MARINE:** BOAT-LIFTS, boat-houses, bulkheads, boat ramps, demolition, house leveling, over 20 yrs. experience. 467-6384.

**ELECTRICAL REPAIRS & INSTALLATIONS:** 30 years master licensed, bonded & insured. 463-0692.

**HAIRDRESSER AND OR NAIL TECH.** needed for busy salon. Call 467-5353.

**HOUSE CLEANING:** REFERENCES, reasonable rates, B.S.L., Kiln, Waveland, Diamondhead, Pass Christian. Lisa 467-3648.

**JACKIE'S WALL PAPER SERVICE:** wall paper installation and repairs. Sheet rock repair and painting. 463-1210, 918-4469.

**MOVING MADE EASY!** LOCAL, one-way, or out of state. Call me and let's make a deal. Brian, 255-9274.

**SAUCIER'S DUMP TRUCK AND TRACTOR SERVICE:** Fill, dirt, top soil, sand, gravel. Also stump grinding & bushhogging. Free estimates. 467-4720.

**SMALL JOBS: HOME REPAIR & REMODELING:** electrical, plumbing & carpentry. Additions & storage buildings. 467-0385 or 493-0325.

**STEVE'S MARINE SERVICE:** Boat, motor & trailer repair. 3204 Rocky Hill-Dedueau Road, Kiln. Service calls available. 255-2676.

**STUMP GRINDING:** \$4.00 AND UP. FREE estimates. 255-8734 pager 516-4755.

**WASH GRAVEL:** \$14.50/PER YARD; pea gravel, \$10.50/per yard; limestone \$23.50/per yard; fill dirt, \$4.25/per yard; topsoil \$10.00/per yard; fill sand \$5.00/yard, etc. 493-3358 and 255-1106.

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## 58 Lawn &amp; Garden

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RELIABLE LAWN SERVICE: YARDS cut, trimmed. References and free estimates. Call 467-2304.

## 66 Child Care

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## 73 Help Wanted

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## 136 Automobiles

## NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

The following vehicles will be sold 30 days after the first publication:  
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 VIN#1G8EG25K3K7180449  
 1984 Chevy Monte Carlo  
 VIN#1M8C14H1CS174718  
 1982 Chevy Truck  
 VIN#1GCC14H1CS174718  
 1983 Lincoln Towncar  
 VIN#T4R93D6K5002451  
 1991 Ford Festiva  
 VIN#NMJPT05H5M6137214  
 1978 Mercury Cougar  
 VIN#8H92H644910  
 1989 Nissan Stanza  
 VIN#A1FU21PXL204297  
 1989 Toyota Truck  
 VIN#T4R93D6K5002451  
 1990 Volkswagen Fox  
 VIN#BWCAC2306L021570  
 1983 Mercury Zephyr  
 VIN#1MEBP67X6DK613481  
 1985 Pontiac Firebird  
 VIN#1G2FS87SOFN209040  
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 VIN#1GEK18H2EF159889

THESE VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD ON OR AFTER JANUARY 15, 2001

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12/17, 12/24, 12/31/00

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1-228-831-0068 or  
 TOLL FREE  
 1-866-831-0068

## 150 Unfurn. Houses Rent

BSL: SMALL COTTAGE, 2/BR, 1/BA, cen. a/h, appliances. \$351 State. \$385. 467-2053.

COZY, CLEAN FURNISHED TWO bedroom house in Pearlrington Ms. for rent. \$480-\$500 deposit. 504-649-5270.

DIAMONDHEAD: 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, great room, den, washer/dryer, fireplace, very clean, Pet-free environment \$825/month plus deposit. 467-7345.

DIAMONDHEAD: BRIGHT OPEN FLOOR plan lots of windows 3/2 garage. \$835/mo. Call Marilyn 255-7711 255-350.

FOR LEASE: NEW 3BR, 2-1/2 bath duplex, B.S.L. \$850/month. 3BR/1-1/2 Bath, Waveland, \$650/month. 2BR, 1BA in the County, \$550/month. 3BR, 2BA in Diamondhead, \$675/mo. Call Chari @ Century 21 McIntyre-Rapp, 467-3777.

LARGE 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, Bay St. Louis, 1 block to bay. Central ac/heat, \$525/month, \$450/deposit. 467-2181.

LG. 2 BD RM 1 1/2 BATH HOME W/central heat/air, catn, ceiling, screened porch, fenced yard, seldom traveled street. \$535 mo. Key Properties Inc. 467-6000.

LIKE NEW 3 BR, 2 BA, FROM \$750 PER month. Century 21 of Diamondhead. 255-3550.

NICE 3/BR, HOME: CENTRAL H/A, carpet, 1-1/2/ba, shop & boat shed, \$700/mo. \$600/depos. 466-2777.

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1/BR, FURNISHED APT. CENTRAL A/H. A.J. 467-8401.

2 BEDROOM APT. FOR RENT. 467-9278.

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OWNER FINANCE, NO CREDIT CHECK, no closing costs. New construction, brick, 3/br, 2ba, cathedral ceilings, fireplace, carport. 1502 Margie Waveland. \$107,000. \$7,000 down, Notes \$877.58. Call Gold Coast Realty 467-4479.

## Public Notices

## IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

ANITA M. KELLAR, PLAINTIFF VERSUS

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI;

CHARLES MITCHELL ALEXANDER, DEFENDANT

AND ALL OTHERS UNKNOWN PERSONS, FIRMS OR CORPORATIONS HAVING OR CLAIMING TO HAVE ANY TITLE, RIGHT OR INTEREST IN AND TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY, DEFENDANTS

## SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

NO. 2000-950

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

A public hearing will be held before the Hancock County Planning Commission on Thursday, January 18, 2001, at 1:30 p.m. in the Zoning Office located at 151 Main Street, East St. Louis, Mississippi 39520, to consider the application of Drew and Sherry Ellinger for a zoning variance to permit a single family residence on a twenty (20) acre parcel of land in the Ethel-Carver Claim in Township 8 South, Range 14 West on the North side of Blue Meadow Road across from Jourdan Drive, which is zoned R-1.

Those interested in more information on the above matter may visit the Zoning Office or call at (228) 467-4157 or (229) 466-4727 during regular business hours which are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Willie Gaviney-Hancock County Building Official December 28, 2000

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL EXCEPTION UNDER THE HANCOCK COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE

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Willie Gaviney-Hancock County Building Official December 28, 2000

12/31/2000

## Public Notices

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Due to the New Year's Day Holiday, the Bay St. Louis City Council workshop scheduled for Monday, January 1, 2001, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2001.

The City Council workshop and meeting will be held at the City Hall Annex, 111 Court Street. All interested parties are invited to attend.

PAUL C. FARIONCETTE CLERK OF COUNCIL

12/21; 12/24; 12/28, 12/31/2000

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A candidate seeking office in the school district must file with the Superintendent of Education on or before January 19, 2001, in order to comply with the following regulations:

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# 2001

Enjoy your holiday celebrations with family and friends,  
but please remember, drinking and driving don't mix.

Plan to have a designated driver, or arrange for other transportation, if you are going to drink.

Don't get into a car if you think the driver has been drinking - arrange another ride for both of you.

If you see someone driving drunk, report it immediately - you may be saving a life.

Remember, even one alcoholic drink can affect judgement and coordination.

Make sure you eat something before drinking.  
Never drink on an empty stomach.

If you are giving a party, offer your guests the alternative of nonalcoholic beverages.

Don't let anyone who appears intoxicated drive.  
Arrange for other transportation.

Above all, use common sense  
and enjoy your holidays.

These holiday safety tips made possible by the following sponsors:

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# Entertainment

## Civil rights exhibit at Ohr Museum

With the New Year comes new exhibits, and at The Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art, January brings a powerful legacy to the culture and freedom so avidly sought after and inevitably achieved during the Civil Rights Movement in the early 1960's.

"Historically the most significant aspect of the Tougaloo College Collection is that the works - cutting edge paintings and prints created by major American artists of the mid 20 Century - were donated to Tougaloo, which was a center for the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi," says museum Executive Director Marjie Gowdy.

"The work was donated to the college by civil rights activists from the Northeast, including one piece donated by Harry Belafonte," said Gowdy.

Many of the works remain artistically important pieces of modern art, which is rarely found in the Southeast. Unfortunately, due to a great financial necessity, some of the

more significant pieces in the collection had to be sold over the years in order to save the remaining works for posterity.

Dr. Ronald Schnell, a German-born art professor who is himself an artist, has an undying passion to preserve the remainder of this collection. Dr. Schnell was appointed to the German department at Tougaloo College in Jackson in 1959.

Upon his arrival, Schnell became aware that there had been no art major in the curriculum and immediately put together an informal program on his own.

For three years Schnell taught non-credit courses in drawing, painting, arts and crafts, and art history, while paying for supplies out of his own pocket.

With the assistance of a visiting student and Dore Ashton, a well-known New York art critic, Schnell was given the opportunity to launch a project which would not only bring an art collection to Tougaloo, but

eventually set up a cultural center for the city of Jackson.

Tougaloo College and United Church Board for Homeland Ministries of the United Methodist Church approved the project March 31, 1963, and the Tougaloo art collection was born.

The collection now features works from substantial African-American artists such as Hale Woodruff, David Driskell, and Robert Scott Duncanson.

The exhibit will be on display in the Lila Wallace Gallery from Jan. 5 through Feb. 23. An art talk with Dr. Schnell followed by an opening reception will be held Friday, Jan. 12, from 5:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Dr. Schnell will also hold a lecture and open discussion on Saturday, Jan. 13, from 10 a.m. to noon. A schedule of additional educational outreach in conjunction with the exhibition will be available at the museum. Sponsors for the exhibit are Judge John Whitfield and the law firm of Phelps Dunbar.

## 'The Ponder Heart' to premiere at Eudora Welty's alma mater

The PBS adaptation of Eudora Welty's comic novella, *The Ponder Heart* will have a premiere screening on Jan. 18 at Central High School (Welty's alma mater), 359 North West Street, Jackson.

There will be two showings - 5:30 and 8 p.m., and a reception will be held between performances, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Old Capitol Museum, State Street at Capitol. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Eudora Welty Foundation.

The PBS film, directed by Martha Coolidge, is part of Masterpiece Theatre's new American Collection telefilm series.

It was produced by ALT Films and headed by veteran producer Marian Rees. The part of Edna Earle is played by JoBeth Williams; Peter MacNicol plays Uncle Daniel; and Boyce Holloman is Grandpa Ponder.

Local actors with speaking roles include Sam Sherrill, Nathaniel Lee, Joseph Bonelli, Andrew Libby, Brenda Judin, and Shari Schneider.

*The Ponder Heart*, which first appeared in the New Yorker magazine in 1953 and was published in book form the following year, follows the saga of a colorful southern family and the attempts by a young heiress to keep her rich uncle from giving away his fortune.

Called a tour de force of storytelling, it is a continuous monologue by Edna Earle Ponder, proprietress of the Beulah Hotel, about the Ponder family and in particular Uncle Daniel Ponder, who has the "sweetest disposition in the world" and believes that things exist to be given away. Therein lies the problem.

In 1956 Joseph Fields and Jerome Choderov adapted the novella for Broadway to rave notices. The same year it was presented to Jackson audiences by the Little Theatre, starring Charlotte Capers, former director, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, as Edna Earle.

In 1982 Alice Parker adapt-

ed the novella again, this time as a successful comic opera; then in 1988 the Broadway version was revived by New Stage Theatre.

The Eudora Welty Foundation, Inc., was established to assist the Department of Archives and History in the conservation of Welty archival material and the preservation, maintenance, interpretation, and operation of the Welty House on Pinehurst Street in Jackson.

Over the years, Welty has regularly donated her manuscripts, photographs, and other material to the Department. In 1986 she deeded her Pinehurst Street home to the Department, subject to a life estate interest.

This *Ponder Heart* premiere is cosponsored by the Eudora Welty Foundation, the Junior League of Jackson, Educational Broadcasting, the Mississippi Film Office, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Tickets for the 5:30 and 8 p.m. showings are \$65 each, of which a portion is tax-deductible. As an added bonus, the Old Capitol Shop will offer the Welty Photographic Series I (a set of five prints) at a special price during the reception.

Make checks payable to the Eudora Welty Foundation, Inc. Mail to Eudora Welty Foundation, P.O. Box 55685,

### Art exhibit

Hillyer House, 207 E. Scenic Drive in Pass Christian offers its January-February art exhibit and includes Debra Wauger from Virginia, porcelain "Corals Beneath the Sea," nautical design etched wine glasses by Betsy Ray; colorful children's books, illustrated and written by Dana Simson (the collection includes her fantasy pottery animals); and Randy Temple jewelry.

Hillyer House represents more than 180 American artisans. The collection is on display and for sale.

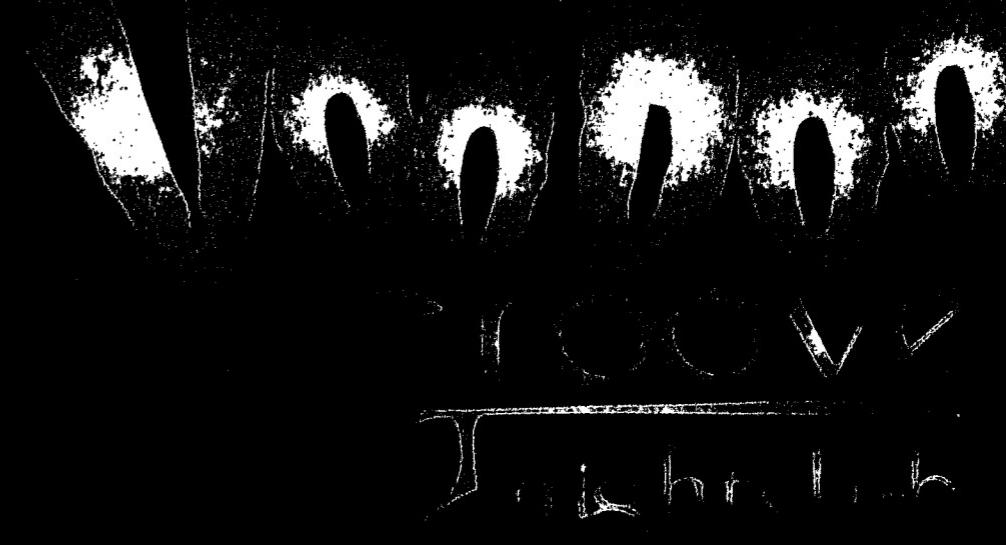


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